

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-01 MED-02 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 /032 W  
-----127721 020153Z /72  
R 011958Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 392  
INFO DEPT OF HEALTH EDUCATION & WELFARE WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SWEL, BF  
SUBJ: PROPOSED CBS 60 MINUTES TELECAST ON FREEPORT'S  
IMMUNOLOGY RESEARCH CENTER

1. THE FREEPORT NEWS HAS REPORTED THAT A CBS 60 MINUTES  
CREW IS DUE IN FREEPORT SHORTLY TO DO A REPORT ON DR. LAWRENCE  
BURTON, THE CONTROVERSIAL HEAD OF FREEPORT'S IMMUNOLOGY  
RESEARCH CENTER (IRC) WHICH CLAIMS TO HAVE DISCOVERED A  
REVOLUTIONARY CANCER TREATMENT.

2. SHOULD THE DEPARTMENT OR HEW RECEIVE INQUIRIES ON IRC,  
EMBASSY'S CURRENT INFORMATION ON IRC REMAINS SAME AS THAT  
CONTAINED IN OUR RESPONSE DATED NOVEMBER 1, 1977 TO REPRESENT-  
ATIVE VIRGINIA SMITH'S LETTER REQUESTING INFORMATION ON IRC  
ON BEHALF OF A NEBRASKA CONSTITUENT.

3. TEXT OF OUR RESPONSE READS AS FOLLOWS:  
QUOTE THE IRC WAS APPROVED IN 1976 TO OPERATE IN THE BAHAMAS  
BY THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH, DESPITE  
OBJECTIONS AT THAT TIME OF THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE  
BAHAMAS (MAB). THE CENTER IS SITUATED AT THE RAND MEMORIAL  
HOSPITAL (OWNED AND OPERATED BY BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT) AND THE  
IRC OPERATES WITHIN THE HOSPITAL'S FACILITIES BUT IS  
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NOT DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE HOSPITAL. THE CENTER IS HEADED  
BY DR. LAWRENCE BURTON, WHO IS PURPORTEDLY A U.S. RESEARCH  
ZOOLOGIST. DR. BURTON IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE DOES NOT  
PROCLAIM HE HAS A CURE FOR CANCER BUT HAS FOUND A MEANS BY  
WHICH THE DISEASE COULD BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL. AS YOU WILL  
SEE FROM THE ENCLOSED COPIES OF NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS FROM  
THE FREEPORT NEWS AND NASSAU GUARDIAN, THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

OF THE BAHAMAS (MAB) IS PRESENTLY INVESTIGATING THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE METHOD OF TREATMENT OF THIS CENTER. DR. A. ESFAKIS, PRESIDENT OF MAB, HAS STATED THAT HIS ASSOCIATION IS INFORMED THAT THE RESEARCH CENTER WAS REFUSED PERMISSION IN THE U.S. TO DO THE SAME TYPE OF CANCER RESEARCH PROJECT. IN ADDITION, THE MAB HAS LEARNED THAT THE AUTHORITATIVE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL IN THE UNITED STATES OFFERED TO COOPERATE WITH THE CANCER RESEARCH GROUP (CENTER) IN AN EFFORT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE DOCTORS HAD ACTUALLY MADE ANY SIGNIFICANT BREAK-THROUGHS IN THE TREATMENT AND CURE OF CANCER 'BUT THEY REFUSED.'" THE EMBASSY TODAY CONTACTED DR. ESFAKIS TO FIND OUT THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE MAB'S INVESTIGATION. HE STATES THE MAB IS STILL NOT HAPPY ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THE IRC'S RESEARCH IS BEING CONDUCTED ALONG ACCEPTED SCIENTIFIC GROUNDS AND ALSO IT IS CONCERNED THAT THE CENTER MAY BE MISLEADING TERMINALLY ILL CANCER VICTIMS THAT IT HAS A CURE. HE FURTHER ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THE THEORY FOR THE TREATMENT MAY OR MAY NOT BE VALID, THE MAB IS STILL NOT CONVINCED OF ITS VALIDITY AT THIS TIME. FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED. DR. ESFAKIS SUGGESTS THAT ANY FUTURE INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE CENTER'S VALIDITY MAY BE ADDRESSED TO HIM - P.O. BOX N-3248, NASSAU, THE BAHAMAS. AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE ABOVE, THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE CENTER AND DOCTORS IS, AT THIS TIME, UNDER INVESTIGATION. IF ANY FURTHER INFORMATION OR RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION ARE MADE KNOWN TO ME, I SHALL CERTAIN WRITE YOU AGAIN. END QUOTE.

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RM DR. ESFAKIS' TELEPHONE NUMBER IS (809) 322 4097.

5. FOR YOUR INFORMATION DR. ESFAKIS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT AN INQUIRY WAS MADE LAST YEAR ON BEHALF OF SENATOR HUBERT HUMPHREY CONCERNING THE NATURE OF THE TREATMENT OF CANCER OFFERED BY IRC.  
SCHWARTZ

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TELEVISION BROADCASTING, MEDICAL RESEARCH, CANCER, MEDICAL FACILITIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978NASSAU00231  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780049-0256  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 8c6908ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3443197  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROPOSED CBS 60 MINUTES TELECAST ON FREEPORT'S IMMUNOLOGY RESEARCH CENTER  
**TAGS:** SWEL, TBIO, SOPN, BF, US, (BURTON, LAWRENCE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/8c6908ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
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